

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

April 24, 2015

I send warm greetings to the people of Australia as we commemorate the 73rd anniversary of the Battle of the Coral Sea.

In May of 1942, the United States and Australia joined together and took to the air and sea to hold back our wartime enemy and protect the values for which our nations stand. Determined to defend the region and freedom's cause, brave women and men fought—and many gave their lives—so that we might know a safer, more just world.

From the Battle of the Coral Sea emerged a lasting partnership between America and Australia. Today, our countries continue to strengthen a bond that has endured through shared challenges over the decades, and we reflect on the events that have united us in common purpose. We also celebrate the moment that forged our formal alliance: the signing of the ANZUS Treaty. Still standing as a pillar of peace in the Asia-Pacific region, this accord reminds us of our obligation to uphold the freedom our service members have stood shoulder-to-shoulder to defend all over the world.

As we observe the anniversary of the Battle of the Coral Sea and honor the sacrifices of those who gave their last full measure of devotion, let us recommit to ensuring a future of peace and prosperity for all people.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Barack Obama", with a large circular flourish on the left and a horizontal line extending to the right.

